AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, it is not correct to say that Pak spies are operating unchecked in U.P. Arrests were made by the State Government during 1998 and 1999 in Meerut and Kanpur in connection with espionage activities. Further, the State Government has constituted a Special Task Force and also created UP and Indo-Nepal Border Police to check such activities. Monthly meetings are also held to review the steps taken and vigil is being kept by State Police and Intelligence Units.

(b) Central Government has been sensitising the State Governments about threat perceptions and movements of ISI activists, anti-national elements and insurgents from time to time. As a result of coordinated action a number of ISI backed modules have been neutralised. Periodic coordination meetings are held with State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters and for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies, belonging to Union and States have been working together to counter the situation.

Restructuring of NEC

1438. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the composition of the North Eastern Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concerned States have been consulted;

(d) if so, their opinions in the matter; and

(e) by when the matter would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) North Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill 1998 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 8th December 1998. The salient features of the Bill regarding composition are furnished below:

(i) Sikkim shall be included in the Council.

(ii) The Governors, who are Constitutional Heads, shall cease to be members of the Council.

(iii) Besides the Chief Ministers of the NE States, the Council shall consist of three members to be nominated by the President of India.

(c) and (d) Concerned States have been consulted. Many of the State Governments are in agreement with the proposals made.

(e) It is not possible to indicate any time limit by when the Bill would be passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

New National Security Plan

1439. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new national security plan on anvil; and

(b) the action taken to curb the nefarious activities of the ISI and the smuggling of narcotics into the country from the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Government in consultation with all concerned has been evolving appropriate strategies to handle sensitive issues pertaining to internal security in a multi-dimensional manner, which include strengthening of the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland, greater functional integration of anti-militancy efforts, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening of the democratic process etc.

(b) In order to curb the nefarious activities of ISI and smuggling of narcotics into the country from across the border, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach comprising of deployment of Central Para Military Forces, setting up of Border Observation Posts, erection of fencing/flood lighting in vulnerable areas along the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders and provision of specialised